

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00
ACDA-07 OMB-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /072 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:PWLANDE/GN

APPROVED BY T:LWBENSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 128399

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PK, US

SUBJECT: A-7 SALES POLICY

1. UNDER SECRETARY BENSON CALLED IN AMBASSADOR YAQUB-KHAN JUNE 3 TO INFORM HIM THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD DECIDED AGAINST THE SALE OF A-7S TO PAKISTAN. BENSON EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THE DECISION HAD APPEARED IN THE PRESS IN THE MANNER IN WHICH IT HAD. BENSON STATED THAT THE NEW YORK TIMES' INTERPRETATION OF THE DECISION WAS INACCURATE. IN FACT THE DECISION HAD BEEN MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR GLOBAL ARMS SALES POLICY. IT WAS PURELY A MATTER OF CHANCE THAT THE FIRST DECISION UNDER THIS POLICY HAD AFFECTED PAKISTAN.

2. BENSON REVIEWED THE ARMS SALES POLICY NOTING THAT IT WAS AN ATTEMPT TO REDUCE BOTH THE AMOUNT AND SOPHISTICATION OF ARMS EXPORTS. IN THE CASE OF THE A-7 IT WAS DECIDED THAT THIS AIRCRAFT WOULD HAVE CONSTITUTED THE INTRODUCTION
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OF A MAJOR SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS SYSTEM INTO SOUTH ASIA, AND, THEREFORE, RAN CONTRARY TO OUR POLICY.

3. BENSON NOTED WE ARE CONTINUING TO SUPPLY OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO PAKISTAN, SUCH AS TRAINER AIRCRAFT. WE WOULD

BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER THE SALE OF COMBAT AIRCRAFT OTHER

THAN THE A-7 IF THESE WERE OF INTEREST TO PAKISTAN. WE RECOGNIZED THAT PAKISTAN HAD A LEGITIMATE NEED FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT INCLUDING MORE MODERN AIRCRAFT.

4. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT HE WOULD COMMUNICATE THE USG DECISION TO HIS GOVERNMENT. HE WOULD STATE THAT THE DECISION WAS BASED ON THE DEGREE OF SOPHISTICATION OF THE A-7 IN LIGHT OF THE ARMS SALES POLICY AND THAT THE REASONS FOR THIS DECISION WHICH WERE CITED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE (SEPTTEL) I.E. DESIRE TO PLEASE INDIA, POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN PAKISTAN, WERE NOT FACTORS IN THIS DECISION. BENSON AGREED.

5. AFTER THE MEETING THE AMBASSADOR ASKED COUNTRY DIRECTOR LANDE WHETHER THIS SUBJECT HAD ARISEN IN THE PARIS MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER. LANDE REPLIED THAT IT HAD NOT COME UP. WE HAD BEEN PREPARED TO INFORM THE FOREIGN MINISTER DURING THAT MEETING BUT THE CONVERSATION HAD FOCUSSED ALMOST ENTIRELY ON OTHER MATTERS.

6. PRESS GUIDANCE BEING SENT SEPTTEL.

7. EMBASSY ISLAMABAD SHOULD INFORM FOREIGN OFFICE OF USG DECISION STRESSING THE REASONS CITED BY UNDER SECRETARY BENSON. EMBASSY MAY ALSO EXPRESS REGRET THAT THE DECISION BECAME KNOWN THROUGH PRESS LEAKS AND THAT WE HAD HOPED TO INFORM GOP BEFORE DECISION BECAME PUBLIC.

8. EMBASSY NEW DELHI MAY DRAW ON SUBSTANCE OF CONVERSATION

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TION AND PRESS GUIDANCE IN REPLYING TO QUESTIONS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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